

July 29, 2021

Dear Residents,

The mounting evidence indicates that the vaccines, particularly Pfizer and Moderna, are still effective at preventing severe illness and death. A big unknown is whether the risk of bad outcomes is changing for vulnerable / immunocompromised individuals, even if vaccinated.

It's becoming increasingly clear that with Delta variant around us, the vaccinated individual can become infected and symptomatic and also can transmit. So, while unfortunate consequences for vaccinated residents and staff are probably unlikely, illness and transmission and contribution to ongoing spread are likely.

DC reports 3.6% Test positivity rate (target is bellow 3%) and 1.34 Rate of transmission (target is below 0.8). At risk of being accused of hairsplitting, we have to acknowledge that the trend is unfavorable. Despite the fact that DC is not in the alarming range at the moment, it probably will be soon.

It is unfortunate, but IRC management has no choice but to reinstate mask guidance and require everyone, including fully vaccinated residents, to wear a mask in the indoors public areas unless actively eating, drinking or exercising.

Also, while environmental factors play a limited role in transmission, high touch surfaces should be cleaned often. As a result, all magazines and puzzles must be removed from the public areas.

Thank you for your support and understanding,

Felix Rosenwasser, ED





